

Claims:

Cancel Claims 1-16 including duplicate claims 9 and 10.

Cancel Claims 17- 36.

Claim 37 (New) A method to adapt a route to implement a process, comprising:
dividing the process into a sequence of process steps;
assigning to each process step, except for a first process step for which a workflow step is to be specified during the execution of the route, a workflow step to implement the process step where the sequence of workflow steps create a route;
including in the sequence of the route prior to the first process step position, an adaptive workflow step to specify a workflow step to implement the first process step;
executing the route in a workflow system such that the adaptive workflow step executes and specifies a workflow step to implement the first process step and adapt the route to implement the process.

Claim 38 (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a user for the specified workflow step.

Claim 39 (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a user for the specified workflow step from a directory of users.

Claim 40 (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a sub-route, a sequence of workflow steps.

Claim 41 (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a sub-route from a library of sub-routes.

Claim 42 (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a sub-route including an adaptive workflow step.

Claim 43 (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies parallel sub-routes.

Claim 44 (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step modifies a sub-route and specifies the modified sub-route.

Claim 45 (New) A workflow system for adapting a route while processing the route, comprising:
a computer;
an adaptive workflow program, providing an adaptive step to specify a subsequent step in a route during the processing of the route, executing in the computer;
a route, containing the adaptive step, stored in the computer;
wherein the adaptive workflow program processes the route and the adaptive step is processed to specify the subsequent step in the route which adapts the route.

Claim 46 (New) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step specifies a user for the subsequent step.

Claim 47 (New) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route, a sequence of steps.

Claim 48 (New) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route including an adaptive step.

Claim 49 (New) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step specifies parallel sub-routes.

Claim 50 (New) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step modifies a sub-route and specifies the modified sub-route.

Claim 51 (New) A method to adapt the execution of a workflow route, a sequence of steps, comprising:
defining the workflow route except a first step to be specified during the execution of the workflow route;
including in the workflow route prior to the yet to be specified first step, an adaptive step to specify the first step;
starting execution of the workflow route in a workflow system such that the adaptive step specifies the first step to adapt the execution of the workflow route.
Claim 52 (New) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step specifies the user for the first step.

Claim 53 (New) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route, a sequence of steps.

Claim 54 (New) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route including an adaptive step.

Claim 55 (New) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step specifies parallel sub-routes.

Claim 56 (New) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step modifies a sub-route and specifies the modified sub-route.